

29 December 1981

Mr. Wallace K. Harrison  
Harrison & Abramovitz  
630 Fifth Ave.  
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Harrison:

As Chairman of the CIA Fine Arts Commission I share in some measure the responsibility for the care and protection of the magnificent structure which you and your colleagues created for this agency some years ago. From conversations with [ ] in our Office of Logistics, I know that you have continued to be interested in the building, so I am presuming to turn to you with a question arising from discussions I have had with the director of the federal Art-in-Architecture program.

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As you may be aware, under relatively new legislation a certain portion of funds appropriated for construction of a federal building can be allocated for the commissioning or acquisition of art to enhance the new structure. The program also provides some opportunities for the addition of sculpture or other art to existing structures or their grounds. In determining whether such an addition might be appropriate, considerable weight is given to the judgments of the designing architect. It would be quite helpful to me, therefore, if I could obtain from you some indication of the extent to which you might have included sculpture in your original design concepts for the building.

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I share [ ] strong belief that the building itself is quite sculptural in concept and execution and I am therefore quite attuned to the need for great care in selecting any sculptural enhancement. Indeed, we may conclude as we proceed with this inquiry that such addition would be inappropriate. However, several of us have in mind that the open space before the front entrance might be an attractive setting for a modern sculpture designed to complement the line and scale of the building's facade.

Your recollections of any consideration given to sculptural detail at the time our building was designed and any thoughts you may have about the appropriateness of such enhancements now would be most welcome and would help me to shape the decisions of the Fine Arts Commission as they relate to the Art-in-Architecture program.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Bruce T. Johnson

Bruce T. Johnson

cc: Donald W. Thalacker  
Director, Art-in-Architecture Program  
General Services Administration  
19th & F St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20405

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